

LOUISIANA AGRICULTURAL FINANCE AUTHORITY (LAFA)
MINUTES

December 6, 2017

Veterans' Memorial Auditorium
5825 Florida Boulevard
Baton Rouge, LA 70806

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by the Chairman, Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry (LDAF) Commissioner Mike Strain at 10:05 AM.

ROLL CALL

The roll was called by Melanie Tullier.

Present: Commissioner Mike Strain, H. Marcell Parker, Jr., Ronald Petree, Kent Brown, Calvin Viator, and Bill Waguespack

Absent: Jeanine L. Herrington, Richard Muller, and Katie Sistrunk

Mrs. Tullier stated there was a quorum with six members present.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

Commissioner Strain asked the board members to review the minutes from the July 21, 2017 meeting.

A motion was made by Mr. Petree to approve the minutes from the July 21, 2017 meeting. It was seconded by Mr. Waguespack, and passed unanimously.

REVIEW OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Mrs. Catrina Irvin presented LAFA's Financial Statements to the board and answered the members' questions.

A motion was made by Mr. Viator to accept the Financial Statements. It was seconded by Mr. Waguespack, and passed unanimously.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

- Mr. Simon updated the board on the Lacassine Industrial Park (LIP). Rail Logix is now the official rail provider at the LIP. Rail Logix will take over as management of the park in February 2018. All construction in Phase 1 is expected to be completed in the summer of 2018.
- Mr. Simon notified the board that the Defeasance of the 2012 Racino Bonds was completed in December. The bonds were paid off on September 15, 2017. LAFA is now out of debt.

OLD BUSINESS

2016 Louisiana Farm Recovery Grant Program

LAFA received 1065 applications to the 2016 Louisiana Farm Recovery Grant Program. The program is approximately 40% complete with Phase 1. Phase 1 should be completed by January 31, Phase 2 completed by February 28, and awards are expected to be funded in March.

NEW BUSINESS

Appointment of Deana Erdey as the Assistant Director of LAFA

A motion was made by Mr. Parker to appoint Deana Erdey as Assistant Director of LAFA. It was seconded by Mr. Petree, and passed unanimously.

Lease of former computer server room at LDAF headquarters to Louisiana State Police Commission

A motion was made by Mr. Waguespack to entered into a lease with the Louisiana State Police Commission of the former computer server room. It was seconded by Mr. Brown, and passed unanimously.

Lease of former LDAF Seedling Nursery (approximately 85 acres) at the Monroe office complex

A motion was made by Mr. Viator to put out a bid for a cash rent lease of the LDAF Seedling Nursery property at the Monroe office complex. It was seconded by Mr. Parker, and passed unanimously.

Resolution to allow DOTD to resurface Woodworth airport runway

A motion was made to approve the resolution allowing DOTD to resurface the Woodworth airport runway by Mr. Parker. It was seconded by Mr. Waguespack, and passed unanimously.

LDAF/LAFA's marketing efforts and overhaul of the Louisiana Certified Programs

Deana Erdey is currently working on revamping the Louisiana Certified Programs. She has met with other states to get advice on what has helped their programs. The new website will be launching in January. The currently budget for 2018 marketing efforts is \$500,000.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Simon introduced LAFA's newest employee, Carolyn Landry, to the board. He also introduced LDAF's new Public Relations Officer, Jennifer Finley, to the board.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mr. Viator to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded by Mr. Parker, and passed unanimously at 10:52 AM.